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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 004068

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A  
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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Gul: Foreign troops might be allowed on Turkish bases - Hurriyet  
Turkey to open bases, harbors to U.S. - Vatan  
UN: 27 million Iraqis need food, medicine - Turkiye  
Reeker unaware of possible Gul visit to U.S. - Hurriyet  
WP, ABC survey: 56 percent of Americans support strike against Iran - Milliyet  
AKP's 'army of Imams' of 15,000 - Milliyet  
Graham Fuller: Turkey indispensable for U.S. - Aksam  
Joint contact group between TOBB-CSIS - Sabah  
1,000 paid \$4 million to have dinner with Bush - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Turkey to open bases for Iraqi humanitarian supply - Zaman  
Turkey urges U.S. on tighter control of Habur border crossing - Zaman  
Blair, Berlusconi, Aznar losing popular support - Yeni Safak  
6,000 'oil police' to guard Iraqi pipelines - Yeni Safak  
Religious Affairs becomes Gargantuan - Radikal  
EC plan to decrease Turkish population in Cyprus - Cumhuriyet  
Holbrooke angers Denktas - Cumhuriyet  
U.S. court approves 'positive discrimination' on behalf of black students - Radikal

BRIEFING

'Iraq dialogue' between U.S., Turkey: "Cumhuriyet" reports about ongoing talks between the U.S. and Turkey on Iraq. Washington has a positive view of Ankara's approach to PKK/KADEK defectors, but wants the scope of the draft 'Repentance Law' expanded. During a recent visit to Washington, MFA U/S Ambassador Ziyal presented the U.S. with a list of possible Turkish contributions to the rebuilding of Iraq, according to Cumhuriyet. Ankara signaled that Turkey's airbases and ports would be opened to the U.S., that Turkey would send troops for Iraqi peacekeeping, that U.S. troops in Iraq could spend vacations in Turkey, and that Turkey's higher education council (YOK) could help in the restructuring of Iraqi universities.

Northern Iraq disarms: KDP and PUK officials have agreed with U.S. General Colin Schite that civilians living in Northern Iraq should be disarmed within two weeks, papers report. Only peshmergas of the two Kurdish groups will be allowed to carry weapons.  
EC adopts 'anti-Turkish' bills: Dailies write about two anti-Turkish reports adopted on Tuesday by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. The first report claims that the Greeks and Maronites are living under pressure in Northern Cyprus, and that their properties have been seized. The other report demands that migrants sent from Turkey to the north of the island following the Turkish occupation in 1974 should return home. The movement of settlers has caused significant changes in the demographic structure of the island, where settlers from Turkey now outnumber native Turkish Cypriots.

Denktas rebuffs criticism by Holbrooke: Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas responded to Richard Holbrooke, who had blamed him for blocking a solution on the island merely out of

personal ambition. Denktas said: 'I have turned 79, and cannot be obsessed by greed at this age.' Denktas accused Holbrooke of involvement in financial dealings with the Greeks.

AKP to hire more Muslim preachers: Ruling AKP lawmakers voted on Tuesday for a massive increase in the number of Muslim clerics and preachers employed by the state, papers report. The AKP backed the increase in the budget for the Department of Religious Affairs (DIB), the state body that employs around 88,000 staff and preachers to run mosques across Turkey and in other countries. They voted to employ an additional 15,000 clerics and preachers, instead of a proposed 1,600. Opposition party CHP officials said a total of 34,000 public sector appointments were planned by the government in 2003, and that the enormous additional staffing would make DIB the fifth largest public institution. The IMF had earlier opposed a similar attempt by AKP. The decision still needs to be approved in the main assembly, where the AKP has a strong majority, and signed by the president before it takes effect.

EDITORIAL OPINION: US-Pakistan; Iran

"The US and Pakistan"

Fikret Ertan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (6/25): "The visit of Pakistan's leader Musharraf to Camp David is significantly important for the future of Asia as well as ties between Washington and Islamabad. . Issues on the agenda range from the Kashmir problem to Afghanistan, and from changes in the Pakistani army to Pakistan's official recognition of Israel. . The issues discussed and results achieved at the Camp David meeting will not only have an enormous effect on the US-Pakistan relations, but will also play a determining role in the future of Afghanistan and other countries in the region. The US-Pakistani summit could also have an impact on the political status of General Musharraf."

"Changing regime in Iran"

Ergin Yildizoglu argued in social democrat-intellectual Cumhuriyet (6/25): "The effort to change the regime in Iran is part of an American policy to alter the regional equilibrium. Following the occupation of Iraq, regional balances have shifted. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries have lost their strategic importance. By stationing itself in northern Iraq, the US now has the advantage to be able to intervene in both Iran and Turkey. . If the Mullahs' regime in Iran is eventually replaced with a pro-American regime, the US will have the privilege of controlling an energy corridor from Iraq to China. In this case, Turkey will lose its strategic importance and its future will be tied to its relationship with Washington. . It is in Turkey's interest as well that Iran changes its regime, yet becomes a democratic and independent country with which Turkey can establish a certain degree of alliance."

PEARSON